No oil has been found in the Kharatar area of Jaisalmer basin in the State of Rajasthan. However, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has earlier found natural gas in Kharatar structure and also recently in Chinnewala Tibba prospect. ONGC plan to carry out Two-dimensional (2-D)/Three-dimensional (3-D) Seismic data acquisition in this area for mapping the prospect and after due integration shall delineate the find through drilling of wells etc.

(c) and (d) Sui Gas field of Pakistan is situated around 140-150 kilimeters away from the Indo-Pak border and as such there is no possibility of natural gas from Kharatar area being exploited through this field.

Setback in oil exploration

†970. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the work of exploration of oil and natural gas has received a setback recently;

(b) the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the obstacles coming in the way of speedy exploration of oil in new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) There has been no recent setback in the work of exploration for oil and natural gas in any of the states. Appropriate measures as warranted by the prevalent situation in the areas under exploration have been taken.

New LNG Policy

971. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the LNG policy to address the issues relating to pricing of fuel is going to come before Parliament for its consideration;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in bringing it before Parliament;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the states are opposing this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The LNG policy is under the consideration of Government. It requires detailed examination and consultation/approval of different user Ministries/ Departments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploration of crude oil in Nagaland

972. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has been allowed to drill in Arunachal Pradesh for the discovery of new oilfields;

(b) if so, whether OIL has started drilling; and

(c) what is the latest position of extraction of crude oil in Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) can carry out Exploration and Production (E&P) activities, incluiding drilling of wells, in terms of Petroleum Exploration Lincence (PEL) and Mining Lease (ML) granted to it in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It has already drilled 56 Exploratory and development wells and is carrying out Two-dimensional (2-D) seismic survey in the Manabum area of Arunachal Pradesh today.

(c) The Government have made efforts in close coordination with the State Government of Nagaland to resume exploration and development activities by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in Nagaland. A number of measures have been taken in this direction which, *interalia*, include series of meetings with the State Governemnt, grant of Mining Lease for one block in Changpang by the State Government, filing of applications by ONGC for three more Petroleum